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national farmers union
In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NFU CONVENTION SLATED FOR NOVEMBER 20-22 IN SASKATOON

“**Food and Community: Local to International**” is the theme of the National Farmers Union (NFU) 39th annual national convention, which takes place in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, November 20-22, 2008. The convention will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Saskatoon. Full details of the convention agenda are available at www.nfu.ca.

Keynote speakers at the convention include:

* **Raj Patel** – author of the bestselling book, “*Stuffed and Starved: Markets, Power and the Hidden Battle for the World Food System*”;

* **Bob Kingston** – President of the Agriculture Union (Public Service Alliance of Canada), which represents food inspectors with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA);

* **Judy Rebick** – well-known political commentator and current Chair in Social Justice and Democracy at Ryerson University;

* **Larry Hill** – Chair of the Canadian Wheat Board;

* **Elwin Hermanson** – Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Grain Commission;

* **Jacques Laforge** – President of the Dairy Farmers of Canada;

* **Paul Nicholson** – spokesperson for the Basque Farmers and Ranchers Movement;

* **Juana Ferrer** – spokesperson for farm women of the Dominican Republic;

* **Darrin Qualman** – NFU Director of Research and author of a major investigative report on Canada’s cattle sector. The report is slated to be publicly released at the convention.

In an era of declining energy reserves and rising concerns over food safety risks, many farmers and consumers are looking to local food production and distribution systems as an alternative. Globalization and free trade have concentrated control over the food

system in the hands of a few very large, and very profitable, corporations, at the expense of food security for hundreds of millions of people. This convention will focus on the challenges facing the current globalized food system and explore viable alternatives designed to strengthen the family farm and food safety.

The convention will also focus on the financial crisis gripping the country's livestock producers, who have seen cattle and hog prices at the farm gate fall to depression-era levels while large companies move to gain monopoly control over the processing sector. The future of the Canadian Wheat Board and the Canadian Grain Commission will also be front and centre during discussions by delegates at the convention. Farmers from across Canada will be gathering to shape policy for their organization and to elect their national leaders.

Members of the public are invited to attend the convention as visitors.

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